

ANNA SCRIPPS WHITCOMB CONSERVATORY



The Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, a landmark on Belle Isle, has been at its present site since 1904. It was designed by Albert Kahn and occupies a thirteen-acre parcel of land shared by the formal perennial gardens, rose garden and lily pond. It was renovated during the early 1950's when the wood beams were replaced with aluminum. The Conservatory was dedicated to Mrs. Whitcomb after her death in 1953.

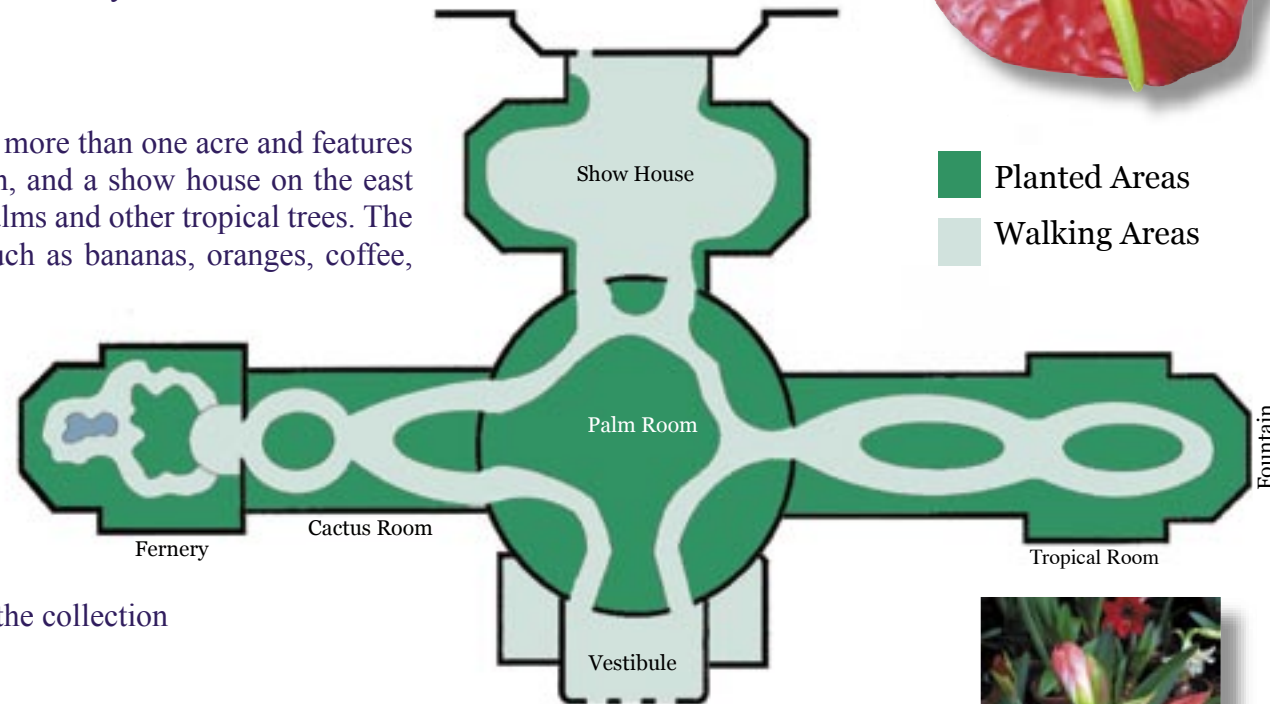
The Conservatory is divided into five distinct sections. It covers more than one acre and features a dome, eighty-five feet high, two wings to the north and south, and a show house on the east side. The dome provides 100,600 cubic feet of space for large palms and other tropical trees. The south wing contains tropical plants of economic importance such as bananas, oranges, coffee, sugar cane, orchids, among others. The north wing hosts an extensive collection of ferns, cacti and succulents. The Showhouse was remodeled during 1980 and 1981. It has a continuous display of blooming plants to mark the six major flower seasons of the year. The Conservatory provides an in-depth look at the world of horticulture.

The Conservatory also has one of the largest municipally-owned orchid collections in the country, made possible by donations from various benefactors including 600 orchids from the collection of Anna Scripps Whitcomb, an avid orchid breeder and grower.



Hours
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wed.-Sun
Admission is free.

Flower Shows
Seasonal flower displays include:
Winter, Spring, Mother's Day, Summer,
Chrysanthemum and Poinsettia.
For current show information,
call 313-821-5428.



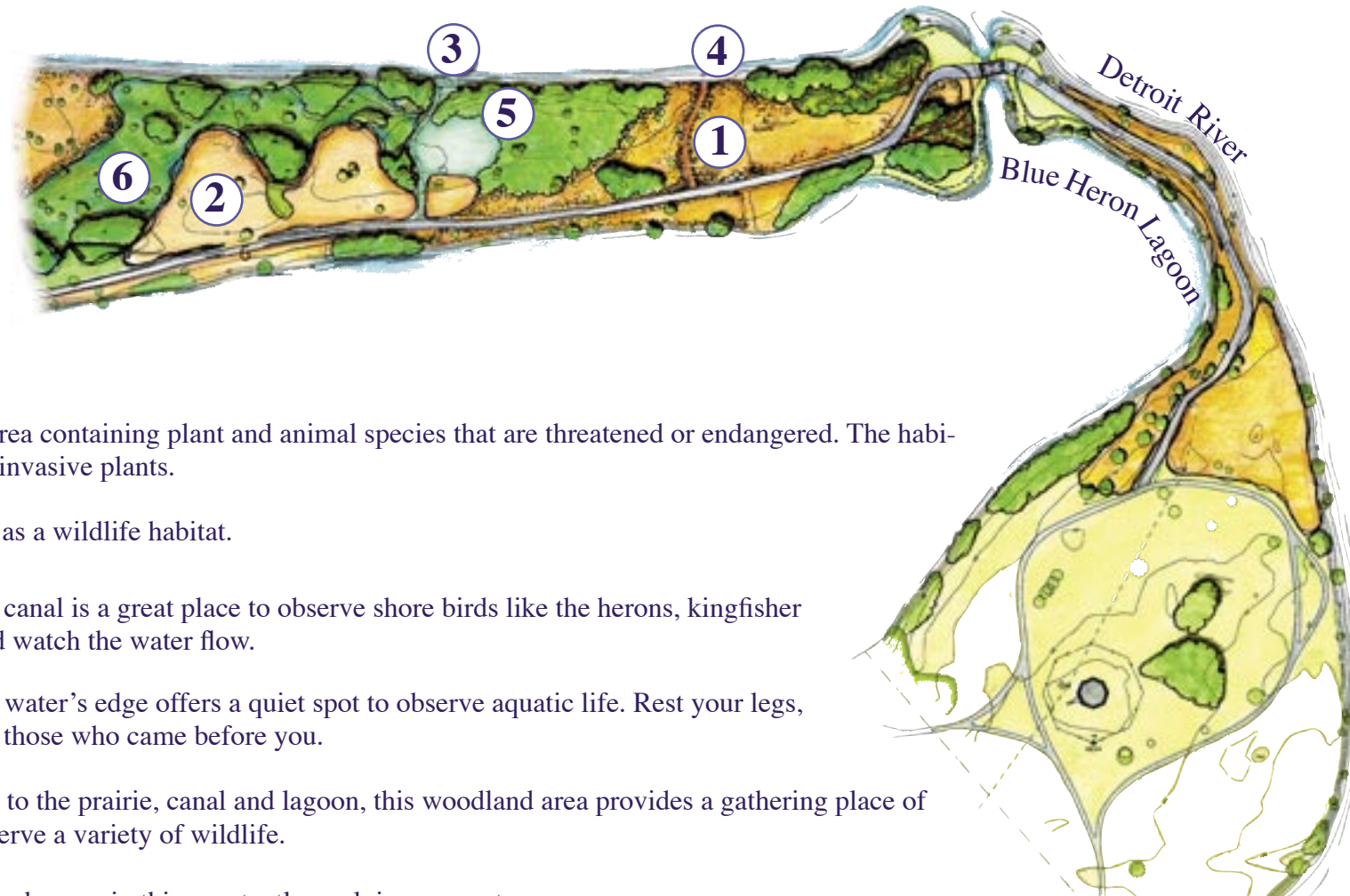
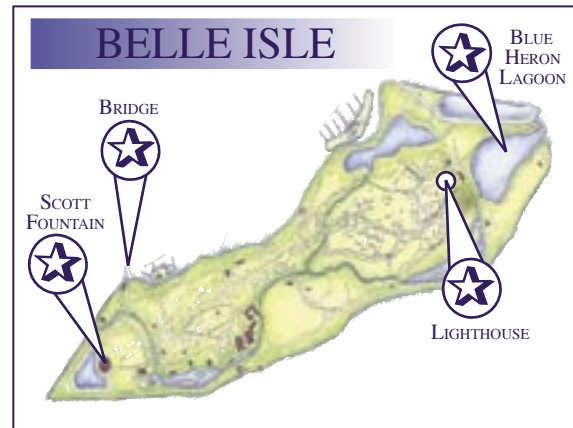
ANNA SCRIPPS WHITCOMB CONSERVATORY

City of Detroit
Belle Isle Park



BLUE HERON LAGOON NATURAL AREA RESTORATION

Belle Isle is located close to the city's urban center and in a flyway that supports more than three million migratory birds and butterflies annually
The Detroit River, a part of Great Lakes waterway, supports hundreds of fish and water fowl.



- 1 Lake Plain Prairie Expansion.** Area containing plant and animal species that are threatened or endangered. The habitat is being improved by the removal of invasive plants.
- 2 Prairie Seeding.** Improving the area as a wildlife habitat.
- 3 Bird Observation Area.** This quiet canal is a great place to observe shore birds like the herons, kingfisher and cedar waxwings, enjoy the quiet and watch the water flow.
- 4 Water's Edge.** This little place at the water's edge offers a quiet spot to observe aquatic life. Rest your legs, cool your feet; look for the footprints of those who came before you.
- 5 Woodland Restoration.** In contrast to the prairie, canal and lagoon, this woodland area provides a gathering place of light and shadow where visitors can observe a variety of wildlife.
- 6 A Place of Change.** Watch for subtle changes in this constantly evolving ecosystem.

Blue Heron Lagoon is part of the almost 300 acres that were added to Belle Isle's original 690 acres. The soils that created the eastern and western ends of Belle Isle were hauled by truck from the construction sites of the Statler Hotel, and the Guardian, Buhl and Penobscot buildings, via a scow and a tug affectionately named "Josephine."

Thanks to the recent restoration and improvement, native species (Sullivant's Milkweed *Asclepias sullivantii*, Pumpkin Ash *Fraxinus profunda* and Prairie Ladies'-Tresses *Spiranthes magnicamporum*) have had the opportunity to flourish. They are not only important for their intrinsic beauty; they are threatened species.

BLUE HERON LAGOON

City of Detroit
Belle Isle Park

